



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN
6720 FORT DENT WAY, SUITE 240, TUKWILA, WASHINGTON 98188

EXEMPT RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT
Office of the Family and Children's Ombudsman

POSITION: OMBUDSMAN

OPENS: August 6, 2004

CLOSES: When the position is filled.

SALARY: \$46,000 - \$54,000 annually, depending on qualifications

LOCATION: Tukwila, Washington

OVERVIEW: The Office of the Family and Children's Ombudsman (OFCO) was established to ensure that government agencies respond appropriately both to the needs of children in need of state protection, and families and children who are involved with government agencies due to child abuse and neglect issues. As an independent office within the Office of the Governor, it is OFCO's mission to:

- Protect children and families from potentially harmful agency acts or omissions;
- Ensure that agency officials and state policy makers are aware of chronic and serious problems in the child protection/child welfare system so they can improve services.

OFCO fulfills its mission by acting on citizen complaints, and by conducting administrative and systemic investigations. The office consists of the director, three ombudsmen, and an information and referral specialist/office administrator. For more information, visit our website at www.governor.wa.gov/ofco/ofcohome.htm.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES: The ombudsman:

- Conducts investigations aimed at identifying and analyzing system-wide issues that adversely affect children and families involved in the child protection/child welfare system.
- Intervenes in situations as appropriate to prevent or mitigate harm to a child or family due to administrative error or inattention.
- Identifies and analyzes potential system-wide problems that adversely affect children and families.
- Provides information to the public on the child protection and welfare system and on services for children and families.
- Represents OFCO at meetings, professional conferences, and public events.
- Develops and manages projects as assigned.

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: The Office of the Family and Children's Ombudsman is most interested in candidates who meet or exceed the following criteria:

- An advanced degree with significant experience in and a working knowledge of the child protection/welfare and/or juvenile court system.
- Strong writing and oral communication skills.
- Strong problem-solving skills.
- An ability to identify and/or comprehend applicable state laws and regulations, administrative policies and procedures, and legal opinions.
- Demonstrated ability to gather and analyze information and data in an impartial and fair manner.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with diverse families and children, and with individuals in personal crises, and in confrontive situations.
- Demonstrated ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with individuals contacted in the course of work.
- Demonstrated ability to use a computer, and to understand and master office word and data processing programs and equipment, including the use of external data bases for investigation and research.

COMPENSATION: This position serves at the pleasure of the Director Ombudsman and is exempt from civil service law. The salary range is between \$46,000 - \$54,000 annually, depending upon qualifications and experience. Washington State has a generous benefits package, including health, dental, and life insurance, retirement, and an optional deferred compensation program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Interested applicants should submit: 1) a letter of interest describing their demonstrated ability to meet the principal responsibilities and desirable qualifications outlined on the announcement; 2) a resume; 3) three professional references, and 4) a writing sample, to:

Mary Meinig, Director Ombudsman
6720 Fort Dent Way, Suite 240
Tukwila, WA 98188

The Office of the Governor is an equal opportunity employer. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of disability, persons over age 40, disabled veterans, and Vietnam-era veterans are encouraged to apply. Persons of disability needing this announcement in alternative formats may call (206) 439-3870, or TTY (206) 439-3789.